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Chicago Tribune.

FRIDAY, JANUARY 8, 1864.

THE NEWS.

The Indianapolis dispatch announces the death of Hon. Caleb B. Smith, United States Circuit Judge for the Northern District of Indiana, deceased a few months since left a seat in the Cabinet to take his place on the bench. No particulars are given as to his death.

Judge Caton, of the Illinois Supreme Court, is resigned, and the vacancy has been filled by the appointment of C. Beckwith, Esq., a deservedly prominent and able member of the Chicago Bar.

Gen. Curtis, a brave, loyal, and thoroughly able officer, as we are informed by the dispatches, assumes command of the new Department of Kansas, which it thus cut loose from the body of that in Missouri.

We would call the especial attention of Christian hearted and charitable citizens of Chicago, to the communication of Rev. Robert Laird upon the inside of this issue, relative to the condition of the refugees at Leavenworth Lawrence, Fort Scott and other places in Kansas. Thoroughly destitute, stripped of all their property, and in the most wretched condition imaginable, this fearful storm has visited them with new horrors. Something must be done to relieve them immediately, before death overtakes their whole number. Let the same charity which relieved those suffering from the cruelties of guerrillas, be dealt out to these poor victims who have been compelled to flee from the same vile hordes, for their devotion to the Union cause.

A special to the Cincinnati Commercial, dated at Cumberland Gap, 6th, says:

An overwhelming force under Samuel Jones, and composed of about 20 men of the 16th Illinois and 30 wounded. We also lost 2 pieces of artillery and two wagon loads of stores. The attacking force numbered about 5,000.

The defeat and capture of the 16th Illinois and three guns with the gunners, is to be deplored. But we do not see how the matter could be called "overwhelming." It consisted of no greater number than 60 rebels. We don't think that the best 60 rebels in all secessia can do what this dispatch alleges if our men are allowed to fight. There is an error somewhere. Either the rebels filled in their forty-to-one attack, or the force was far greater than is stated. We think another statement in the dispatch also needs them: "The force captured was guarding the key to the region of country which was our main reliance for forage."

Why was the "key" to so important a region for forage left in the charge of so slim a force as a regiment of cavalry, one gun and no small howitzers?

CONGRESS VOTING FOR CONGRESSMEN AND PRESIDENT.

Among the reported proceedings in Congress yesterday, we observe the following:

Mr. Farnsworth, of Illinois, from the Committee on Elections, reported a bill fixing a uniform time for holding elections for Representatives in Congress, and enabling soldiers to vote in said elections, which was ordered to be printed and recommitted.

A bill of this character ought by all means to be enacted. Congress has the constitutional power to regulate naturalizations and the rights of citizenship. It has the power also to fix a uniform time for holding the election for Representatives to Congress. Why should not this important matter have been acted upon? The State Legislatures have been allowed to set any time they pleased. In some States the members of Congress are elected in the summer or fall preceding the year of taking their seats, as in Pennsylvania; in other States members are elected six months ahead, as in Missouri. In Ohio and Indiana they are elected fourteen months before they take their seats. In Illinois and New York thirteen months intervene between the election and the time of taking their seats. This should be reformed. The members of Congress should be elected in October or November of the same year they take their seats. Last year was the proper time to have elected members to sit in the present Congress in order to have the representation fresh from the people.

Twelve members from Ohio elected last October, and representing the feeling of their own constituencies—some of them by large majorities, but they utterly disregarded all popular will and vote steadily on the unpopular side of every question that came up; so, we find six members from this State representing the Copperhead element, whose majorities last fall voting with the rebels of the country against all measures intended to aid in putting down the rebellion. Still more important still, is the other feature of Mr. Dawes' bill, which enables the soldiers of all the States to vote for members of Congress. Union men will have their representation in Congress, and will control the passage of this bill. Who has more right to vote for members of Congress than those who are fighting the battles of the country? Who has shown greater patriotism? Who has more at stake in the legislation of Congress? Let the soldiers vote for Congressmen. It would, disband the army, and make no provision for back pay or bounty. The claims of soldiers' pensions might be required; the "greenback" currency of the country might be discredited, and even the public debt might not be provided for. The soldiers have a vital interest in all these as well as in the terms of the men that may be made with the rebels. The lovers of most of the States have made provision for the volunteer citizen to take part in the election of the National legislature. Massachusetts, Connecticut, Rhode Island, Ohio (the soldiers are allowed to vote), Iowa, Michigan, Indiana, Wisconsin and New York they are denied the right.

This bill or another one, should make provision for soldiers voting for President and Vice President. Congress has the same control over the election of Presidential electors as over the election of Representatives to Congress. All the arguments in favor of soldiers voting for the latter, apply with equal force to the former. The soldier has just as much constitutional right to vote for President and Representatives as the stay-at-home citizen, and ought not to be deprived of it.

A Letter from Castle Thunder.

We have been permitted, says the Missouri Democrat, to make the following extract from a letter from Junius H. Brown, (one of our correspondents of the New York *Tribune*,) now a prisoner at Castle Thunder, Richmond. He was captured along with Mr. Villard, Col. Richardson, and Coleman of the *World*, in the rebel raid, on a tug in the Mississippi River, during the siege of Vicksburg and Port Hudson, as may be remembered, having been permitted to return home. Here is the extract:

CASTLE THUNDER, RICHMOND, Va., Saturday Afternoon, Dec. 19, 1863.

DEAR G.: Once more permit me to remember you and your most friendly office. Two months ago I was captured in the vicinity of Knoxville, Tenn., and Richardson $300 in Confederate shinplasters. Two since, and I have had no chance for all immediate relief. I have been quite well, and have not had any trouble yourself to help me. You will say further that I am well, we will not hesitate to inform you. In the North are very kind. They would do much to secure our freedom, but the rebels refuse to receive our captivity to render our captivity

[illegible] we (the Bohemian mess I have quite intimately—far more so, I think, than most of the fortunate families of the Northern penitentiaries, prayers [illegible] and intelligent and gentlemanly persons of the prison. We have been [illegible] and [illegible] hungry, and may be [illegible] but not mentally. The absent's back and have a number of relatives at [illegible] daily. We have grown [illegible] Some few [illegible] Gen. [illegible] can't get away from [illegible] good books to read; [illegible] to [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] disease, and a "Doctor" for our [illegible] singular kind! Do [illegible] [illegible] [illegible]

Chicago Tribune.

FRIDAY, JANUARY 6, 1865.

A NEW CHURCH ESTABLISHED.

A newspaper over in Iowa wants to know what is the difference between the Democratic party and the Copperhead party. We think we can tell him. The Democratic party is a political party, with political principles, whose object is to control the political power of the country, and to administer the public affairs. The Copperhead party is a religious party, with principles of religion, whose object is to control the religious affairs of the country, and to administer the affairs of the church. The Democratic party has its platform, and its principles are set forth in the platform. The Copperhead party has no platform, and its principles are not set forth in any platform. The Democratic party has its creed, and its articles of faith are set forth in the creed. The Copperhead party has no creed, and its articles of faith are not set forth in any creed. The Democratic party has its ritual, and its forms of worship are set forth in the ritual. The Copperhead party has no ritual, and its forms of worship are not set forth in any ritual. The Democratic party has its ministers, and its priests, and its bishops, and its deacons, and its elders, and its clerks, and its sextons, and its choristers, and its organists, and its singers, and its ushers, and its pew-openers, and its sacristans, and its beadles, and its vergers, and its chaplains, and its chaplains-in-ordinary, and its chaplains-in-extraordinary, and its chaplains-in-general, and its chaplains-in-particular, and its chaplains-in-waiting, and its chaplains-in-attendance, and its chaplains-in-residence, and its chaplains-in-charge, and its chaplains-in-chief, and its chaplains-in-command, and its chaplains-in-everything. The Copperhead party has no ministers, and no priests, and no bishops, and no deacons, and no elders, and no clerks, and no sextons, and no choristers, and no organists, and no singers, and no ushers, and no pew-openers, and no sacristans, and no beadles, and no vergers, and no chaplains, and no chaplains-in-ordinary, and no chaplains-in-extraordinary, and no chaplains-in-general, and no chaplains-in-particular, and no chaplains-in-waiting, and no chaplains-in-attendance, and no chaplains-in-residence, and no chaplains-in-charge, and no chaplains-in-chief, and no chaplains-in-command, and no chaplains-in-everything. The Democratic party has its churches, and its cathedrals, and its chapels, and its meeting-houses, and its conventicles, and its synagogues, and its tabernacles, and its temples, and its oratories, and its sanctuaries, and its shrines, and its altars, and its fonts, and its pulpits, and its lecterns, and its pews, and its aisles, and its transepts, and its naves, and its chancels, and its choirs, and its organs, and its vestries, and its vestry-rooms, and its vestibules, and its porches, and its towers, and its spires, and its belfries, and its bells, and its chimes, and its clocks, and its weathercocks, and its graveyards, and its tombstones, and its monuments, and its epitaphs, and its crypts, and its catacombs, and its mausoleums, and its cenotaphs, and its sepulchres, and its ossuaries, and its charnel-houses, and its dead-houses, and its coffins, and its shrouds, and its pall-bearers, and its mourners, and its funeral-processions, and its funeral-sermons, and its funeral-orations, and its funeral-eulogies, and its funeral-dirges, and its funeral-chants, and its funeral-hymns, and its funeral-marches, and its funeral-services, and its funeral-obsequies, and its funeral-rites, and its funeral-ceremonies, and its funeral-solemnities, and its funeral-pomps, and its funeral-vanities, and its funeral-everything. 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Of Philadelphia, Graduate of the Medical College of Paris, Member of the Royal Medical Society of Madrid, and of the Medical Society of Berlin, Prussia, Author of the "Medical Adviser," "Consumption, its Nature, Treatment and Cure," "Diseases of Females," "Diseases of Males," "Diseases of the Blood," "Diseases of the Nervous System," "Diseases of the Skin," "Diseases of the Bones," "Diseases of the Liver," "Diseases of the Kidneys," "Diseases of the Heart," "Diseases of the Lungs," "Diseases of the Throat," "Diseases of the Eyes," "Diseases of the Ears," "Diseases of the Teeth," "Diseases of the Hair," "Diseases of the Nails," "Diseases of the Feet," "Diseases of the Hands," "Diseases of the Arms," "Diseases of the Legs," "Diseases of the Abdomen," "Diseases of the Chest," "Diseases of the Back," "Diseases of the Neck," "Diseases of the Head," "Diseases of the Face," "Diseases of the Mouth," "Diseases of the Nose," "Diseases of the Ears," "Diseases of the Eyes

Chicago Tribune.

FRIDAY, JANUARY 8, 1864.

THE CITY.

CARRIERS WANTED.—Three or four carriers are wanted by this paper. They must be intelligent and energetic, and not younger than ten nor older than fifteen years. It will be well to call between the hours of 12 and 2 o'clock in the Counting-room.

CLEVELAND LODGE.—The eighth annual Festival of the Cleveland Lodge of F. & A. M. will be held on Thursday evening, Jan. 21st, at the Tremont House.

FLOUR MANUFACTURERS.—There will be a meeting of the Flour Manufacturers of the Northwest, at the Tremont House, in this city, on Thursday the 14th inst.

PERSONAL.—James Stewart, who was at present here on a short visit, left for Cairo last night. He has been a shareholder in the Illinois Central Railroad from its first organization, and has been one of its Directors for many years. The parties are occupants of the premises No. 161 South Lasalle street, and the dispute arose out of a decision as to the legal ownership of the front door key. The plaintiffs claim the ownership, as the building belongs to them. Before leaving court the defendants were again arrested, and will be arraigned to-day on a charge of having used threatening language to the complainants.

Edward Johnson, a boy about 13 years of age, was sent to the Reform School, at the instance of Officer Hoey, on charge of having been in the habit of throwing stones at passing cars.

RELIGIOUS.—During the past two or three days entertainments have fallen off very considerably, and it is certain that unless some steps are taken very soon to fill our quota, the draft will be made in Illinois. The recommendations made by the President, Secretary of War, Governor of Illinois, General and the Adjutant General of the United States, to extend the time for receiving recruits till February, and thus to continue the Government bounty, has simply been announced in these columns. These propositions are now before Congress and will doubtless receive the sanction of that body. The County Supervisors have called a special meeting for the 18th inst. Monday, at which time it is believed they will decide to continue the county bounty, as a majority of the Supervisors are in favor of such action. The city bounty of $75 dollars for each recruit will be paid till the quota is filled or the draft decided.

COL. ROBINSON.—Colonel Robinson has now in hand a fund of $41,000 collected for the payment of extra bounties of $30 to recruits in the 54th, 44th and 65th regiments.

THE ROCK ISLAND RAILROAD COLLISION.—THE MAILS.—The accident of Thursday, Dec. 31, at Utica on the Rock Island Railroad, resulted in the rail car being badly shattered and severe injury to W. F. Jewett, the mail agent. His left leg was crushed, and his face was very much bruised. The passenger train was two minutes behind time, and supposing that it would not be met by the freight train brought it to a stand still on the track. The passengers, with one dashing along at the rate of forty miles an hour; the engineer, on discovering the whistled down the brakes, reducing the speed to about twenty miles per hour, and then the crash came. No one but Mr. Jewett was seriously injured. The mail of course arrived here on Sunday.

The mail train on the C. R. & Q. Railroad, which should have arrived here on Thursday, came in on Wednesday morning at 8 o'clock, the delay occasioned on that road since the storm. The first mail from St. Louis arrived yesterday morning. Much trouble and some loss has occurred to the business community in consequence of the delay.

EDUCATING THE DEMOCRACY.—One George Francis Train has been lecturing in this city, and announces himself, in double-leaded posters, to deliver a "Chilmore Course of Lectures," in which he proposes to "educate the Democracy" on the subject of State and Federal Sovereignty and rights of the Administration, the rights vested in the Government by the Constitution, &c. From the effort made to notify the Democracy of his advent, and the reputation (?) of the speaker, he felt assured he would have a full house. It was well filled last night—with empty benches. This self-constituted Solon spent more than an hour in reading his written lecture to an audience of twenty-five men, including reporters. It was well worth the price which it now commands.

The following is a statement of receipts and expenditures of the City Treasury from the beginning:

RECEIPTS.	
War Fund of 1861	$72,794.76
Loan Agreement tax	965.37
Effective tax	$77,791.42
War Fund of 1863	$46,494.81
Less collection and delinquency	506.60
Effective 1863	$45,988.21
Total	$117,800.70
EXPENDED.	
Sanitary Commission, &c.	$ 5,722.65
Aztec	19,615.31
Soldiers' families	13,000.00
Telegraphing, &c.	93.05
Balance unexpended	79,369.66
Total	$117,800.70
ASSETS.	
Appropriated	$30,000.00
Expended	19,615.31
On hand	$10,384.69
PAUPERS.	
Appropriated	$75,000.00
Paid in cash	$61,898.06
Coal on 6 delivering	9,284.56
Coal on 7 freight	196.50
Expenses	1,000.00
Carts for 6 hearing	200.00
Balance unexpended	2,916.91
Total	$75,000.00

With the payment of to-day—the allowance expended on Friday—the fund will be about exhausted, or at least that portion which was appropriated to the payment of families. But there is $10,384.69 balance remaining unpaid out of the bounty fund for arms, and there is little doubt that at its next meeting the Council will authorize this to be converted into the Pauper fund. The Finance Committee of the City Council have the matter under consideration, which conversation will be followed by action. The only question of importance is the amount of $75 dollars for each recruit will be paid till the quota is filled or the draft decided.

Col. Rucklesdorf has now in hand a fund of $41,000 collected for the payment of extra bounties of $30 to recruits in the 54th, 44th and 65th regiments.

PRESENTATION.—Captain Jack Nelson, of the City Police Force, was the recipient last evening of a gold headed cane, valued at $100, bearing the inscription: "Presented to Capt. J. Nelson, by the Police of South Chicago, as a token of their esteem."—Accompanied by an address. On the occasion of Masonic stations. The presentation was made by Justice Miller, after which the boys partook of a lunch. The whole affair passed off very pleasantly.

THE SOLDIER'S HOME BENEFIT.—Our city readers will not forget that Robinson & Howes' Circus is to give a benefit to the soldiers' families at their Circus this evening. A very attractive bill will be presented, and we hope to see the Amphitheatre filled to overflowing. A committee of distinguished gentlemen have been selected to take charge of the sale of tickets, &c. for this benefit. Give them a full house!

Y. M. C. A. REVIVAL MEETINGS.—The meetings of this Association, which are held every evening at the lecture room of the Chair street M. E. Church, Indiana street, are of a most interesting nature. At the meeting last evening Rev. C. H. Fowler addressed the concourse present at length, after which Lieut. Col. Mulligan, recently five months a prisoner in Libby prison, Rev. Mr. Starr of the New England Church, and other interesting speakers will be present and address the meeting.

PRESIDENT OF THE SANITARY COMMISSION.—The resignation of Hon. Mark Skinner, as President of the Sanitary Commission, has not been accepted. A meeting of the members of the Commission was held on Tuesday last, at which it was decided to defer action on the matter until the health of the respected President shall be so far improved as to admit of an interview, when, it is believed, he may be induced to reconsider the matter, and to prevail upon to continue at the head of this important institution, the management of which is well understood, and whose success he has so much advanced.

POLICE MATTERS.—There was a small attendance before His Highness the Judge, yesterday morning, and the cases are few and unimportant.

A Mr. and Mrs. Winters were charged with an assault and battery on Charles Johnson. The parties are occupants of the premises No. 161 South Lasalle street, and the dispute arose out of a decision as to the legal ownership of the front door key. The plaintiffs claim the ownership, as the building belongs to them. Before leaving court the defendants were again arrested, and will be arraigned to-day on a charge of having used threatening language to the complainants.

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THE FUEL QUESTION.

Wood and Coal in Chicago. The Supply—Exorbitant Prices.

At the present time—the midst of the most severely cold weather that has been experienced for years—the fuel question, above all others most naturally attracts the attention of all classes of the community. The man who revels in riches and resides in a marble palace, and the poor widow who strives to earn a scanty livelihood in a seven by nine room, far up in the garret and lighted from the roof—all are more or less interested in this absorbing question. Many and bitter have been the complaints of housekeepers, when upon the delivery of a small cart load of coal a very large bill is presented for payment, and consequent upon which is required the magnitude of the service rendered (a mouthful of coal), the apparently indignant countenance.

Some few years since, the parties were but very few in the receipts of fuel, and the aim of the dealer was one to furnish at least one ton of coal or its equivalent in wood. Now, however, the case is different, there have already received it, but makes the arrangement with the dealer for a certain weekly or monthly supply, and then they go without their supply of fuel. A few years ago, Edmund Burke thinks that the Council was made some time ago with some of the railroad companies, by which the city was to be supplied with coal at a certain price, but the terms have hitherto failed to go, nor it is wanted now. Edmund Burke thinks that the Council has been neglected, as some societies here received coal at the time of the severest weather, while others, yet 25 cords of wood is all that he has received. Many families have been obliged to burn wood, which has not been delivered. Why this is the case, Edmund Burke says he cannot say, but the report of the Committee on By-Laws will doubtless explain. An additional Secretary to the Board of Trade, Mr. Burke thinks, would be of benefit to the interests of the latter named institution, which commenced in its hearty and harmonious working order.

The only evidence of this movement are: The reduction of the price of coal from $9 to $8 per ton by dealers from selling at cut prices, besides the advance in the price of wood from $4 to $5 per cord on the prices at which coal was contracted for, and the refusal of purchasers to compromise.

A majority of the Board of Trade Committee, it is understood, favor the coming adjustment, subject to the call of the President.

ANDREW CONFIDENCE OPERATION.—Notwithstanding the many reports of the "confidence" operations which have been made from time to time in the city papers, there is still a large number of those who, in their secrecy, understand the purport of the strategy. A few and his money are easily parted, and the confidence operator knows it, and consequently always is on the lookout for "pooh-pooh" men, and never for an instant permits them to the mental mold on glibly about "not to be had in less than money, as they will never again put either it or the borrower. Almost every day instances of these operations be let at the police stations, and yet they rarely, if ever, come to the knowledge of the public.

A gentleman named Hamilton was arrested last night, under such circumstances. He was charged by Robert Taylor with having in his possession a watch, the property of the latter, which was stolen from him. It appears that Hamilton met Taylor, and after treating him to a number of drinks, induced him to go to a house of ill-fame, where he was robbed of his watch. Hamilton was arrested, and the watch found in his possession. He was committed to the House of Correction.

THE WEATHER.

Notice of the Storm—Traveling Somewhat Sore—Lost—Skating.

The weather continues cold—the mercury corresponding with Jack Frost in a manner very disagreeable to those whose business compels them to be out during the larger part of the out of doors. The merry sleighers, who have made the air ring so much the past two or three days, were almost entirely wanting yesterday, and were where none else or very few were seen. Those who were fortunate enough to enjoy themselves in spite of the weather, stole the march at a rapid pace, keeping time to the merry jingle of the bells; there were none of the artificial stoppages to disturb the movements of wagons and drays. Yesterday morning the thermometer stood at 10 degrees below zero.

The storm which commenced on Monday night, when it became snow-bound, but was finally dug out by the passengers, and after considerable difficulty, succeeded in reaching that place, where the other portion of the train shortly after came up. They both remained there until 5 o'clock Wednesday afternoon, when they made another start and got as far as Lyndon, where they were again weather bound for about four hours. Another start was then made, and without experiencing any more delay, succeeded in reaching Chicago at 10 o'clock.

The snow-drifts at Pacific were very heavy, but not to be compared with those at Dwight. The same conductor was on board who was snowed up with the Legislature in the winter of 1856-57, and who participated in the offer of the road that the drifts then were nothing as compared with those which he had just succeeded in emerging from. The passengers did not suffer from either the want of food or provisions, the former of the road-bed plied the former, and the latter from the stock established them with the latter. The passengers felt very much indebted to the officers of the road for their kindness, and will not soon forget the generous hospitality which was extended to them.

The snow-drifts at Pontiac